

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CONAKR 00287 221531Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----221552 130768 /40

P 221450Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2788

S E C R E T CONAKRY 0287

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR PGOV GV UR
SUBJECT: POLICY RECOMMENDATION: SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE
DEPLOYMENTS AND PUBLIC LAW 480 TITLE I

1. MOUSSA DIAKITE'S LIEUTENANT, SEKOU CAMARA,
CALLED ON EMBASSY AT HIS REQUEST TO RELAY WHAT HE
REPRESENTED AS POSITION OF PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE
AND MOUSSA DIAKITE REGARDING CURRENT ISSUES BETWEEN
USG AND GOG. POSITION IN BRIEF IS THAT THERE
CAN BE NO DISCUSSION OF TU-95 DEPLOYMENTS AS LONG AS
GUINEA IS SUBJECTED TO "US BLACKMAIL" ON RICE. (THIS
SEEMINGLY SUPERSEDES PRIME MINISTER'S SUGGESTION IN
DECEMBER THAT HIGH LEVEL "AIR CLEARING" POLITICAL
TALKS SHOULD PRECEDE PL-480 " TECHNICAL" IMPLE-
MENTATION.) CAMARA ADDED URGENT PERSONAL PLEA
THAT TITLE I DELEGATION BE INVITED TO US AND GAVE
HIS "ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT" THAT DISCUSSION OF
MILITARY PROBLEMS AT SENIOR LEVEL COULD BE
ARRANGED SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

2. EMBASSY IS VERY SEKPTICAL OF READING INTO
CAMARA'S HINTS THAT SOME CHANGE IN GOG MILITARY
POLICY MIGHT BE EXPECTED IF US RELENTS ON THE RICE.
(IT WAS CAMARA WHO PLEADED FOR URGENT SIGNATURE OF
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TITLE I AGREEMENT SEPTEMBER 22, ONE DAY BEFORE
SOVIET TU-85S RETURNED TO CONAKRY FOR 17TH DEPLOYMENT).
HOWEVER, SINCE WE INTEND BEFORE LONG TO RELEASE THE
10,000 TONS ANYWAY THERE IS MERIT IN MAKING POSITIVE
RESPONSE TO CAMARA'S APPROACH AS DEMONSTRATION OF US
GOODWILL. BUT THERE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE ANY
QUESTION OF DISCUSSING ADDITIONAL FISCAL YEAR 77

COMMODITIES UNTIL GOG IS MORE RESPONSIVE ON STRATEGIC MATTERS.

3. RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMEND I BE AUTHORIZED NOW TO LIFT OUR SUSPENSION ON VISIT OF GOG TECHNICAL PURCHASING DELEGATION TO IMPLEMENT SEPTEMBER 22, FY 77 AGREEMENT FOR 10,000 TONS RICE. I WOULD NOTE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH THIS DELIVERY EVEN ON HEELS OF 18TH VERY ACTIVE AND SPECIFICALLY TARGETED TU-95 DEPLOYMENT, SO THAT WE EXPECT TO HEAR NO MORE ABOUT "US FOOD BLACKMAIL". I WOULD ALSO INVITE A SENIOR GOG POLITICAL DELEGATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO MAKE CONTACT WITH NEW US ADMINISTRATION, DISCUSS OUR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, AND SEEK THE RESTORATION OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE NEEDED TO PERMIT FURTHER BILATERAL COOPERATION.

4. THIS PHASING SHOULD ESTABLISH ATMOSPHERE FOR DISCUSSION. PL-480 TECHNICIAN MOUNTAGA KEITA WOULD PROBABLY COME IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON WITH AMBASSADOR KOUROUMA TO PURCHASE RICE AND I WOULD ANTICIPATE A SUBSEQUENT SENIOR DELEGATION HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI AND/OR MOUSSA DIAKITE. IN COURSE OF WASHINGTON VISIT THIS DELEGATION WOULD RECEIVE A FRANK EXPOSITION OF US DISSATISFACTION OVER GUINEAN FACILITATION OF SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS TARGETED AGAINST US AND NATO ATLANTIC FLEET, INCLUDING, I WOULD HOPE, A PENTAGON BRIEFING WITH SLIDES AND MAPS ON THE TU-95D MISSIONS. SHOULD THERE STILL BE NO GUINEAN RESPONSIVENESS TO LEGITIMATE AMERICAN CONCERNS, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO
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COMPELLING REASON FOR THE US TO SUPPORT THE SEKOU TOURE REGIME, BOTH POLITICALLY AND MATERIALLY, WITH FURTHER QUANTITIES OF SUBSIDIZED TITLE I FOOD. NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT ADDITIONAL FY 77 COMMODITIES WOULD BE POSTPONED. RECENT CORRESPONDENCE WITH AF/W PROVIDES RATIONALE OF THIS POSITION IN CONTEXT US NATIONAL INTERESTS IN GUINEA.
HARROP

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